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Kasson City Hall could be part of the "shuffling" that is still in the planning stages for remodeling and relocating city services.

Council moving ahead with 'shuffling' of city buildings

By Randy Carlson

Earlier this year the city council had a preliminary discussion on the options for remodeling, relocating and building new select properties.

The talk included moving public works to the new wastewater treatment plant and the Kasson Fire Department relocating to public works. The K-M Learning Center would be remodeled to accommodate city hall and the library and police department would also move to city hall. There was also the option of purchasing the Learning Center, demolishing the building and constructing a new city hall and library on the property.

Architect David Kane of Kane and Johnson Architects, Inc., and project architect Kevin Blomd from the same firm, gave the council an overview of possible scenarios and cost estimates. The study suggested looking at adding on to the existing school, at the center and to the west, to accommodate a commons area for city hall on the south end and a new library to the north. One of the goals is to keep as many city departments under one roof as possible.

The study considered a two-story 12,000 square foot mezzanine-style library in the Learning Center. There was also discussion of incor-

porating the police department into the Learning Center with the upper level used for offices.

Kane recognized the fact that the former elementary school has a very sound shell with a historic connection to the community. The cost estimate for remodeling is \$3,295,936 plus \$95,000 in contingency fees. New construction cost estimates were \$3.4 for the new city hall and library on the site. The remodel would be 33,000 square feet and the new estimate \$3.4 million.

David Drown, from David Drown Associates, informed the council Tuesday night the city could handle a \$5.6 million project and absorb that into a tax levy over the next 20 years and have little or no effect on the property tax rate. This is assuming reasonable growth assumptions.

The financing strategy is based on the fact Kasson will build an average of 75 new homes each year at an average cost of \$200,000 and that existing property value in the city will increase an average of 4% a year. Another reasonable expectation is that tax levies for operations will grow at a rate of 7% a year, which is quite a bit below the double digit increases of the last five years. Kasson's tax rate is actually 2% lower than it was in 1998.

Two options were presented for financing based

on renovating the school building and two, demolishing the building and constructing new on the site. A comment was made that, "If we run a tight ship this can work."

Drown said that to sit tight for a while with public works and the fire department and phase these projects in would not necessarily save money, generally speaking. "You have a feasible project. Do the whole thing now," he recommended.

"If the school is going to do something I don't want to overburden us with taxes," said council member Mike Marti. Administrator Mike Rietz pointed out the financing of this project is based on growth and value of property, so tax increases should not be a problem.

The council agreed to move ahead with a capital improvement plan and then conduct a public hearing. Drown suggested bringing a plan to the public before spending \$200,000 on architectural fees.

A plan is to be formulated and Kane & Johnson will be instructed to present the council with a plan and expenses they intend to charge over a period of months working on the project. David Drown will put together a five-year capital plan and that will be presented at a public hearing.

Mantorville residents come out in force to annual board of review

By Randy Carlson

Diane Carlson has been mayor of Mantorville seven years and made the comment she has never seen more than three people at one board of review meeting. Last Monday night there was barely standing room in the council chambers as residential and commercial property owners came to question the large increases in their 2005 valuation notices.

County Assessor Wendell Engstad was present to say and answer questions and explain the reasons behind the significant increases. He said Mantorville valuation increases averaged 12% and the county average is 10%. The city of Kasson average was under the double digit average in the county. The hardest hit were commercial property owners who are looking at a 28% increase in valuation.

There are 700-plus commercial properties in Dodge County that will have to deal with the 28% increase in valuation. When asked where the 28% came from Engstad responded by saying it was "arbitrary" and intended to make up for the lower valuations property owners were getting by with in the past. Someone asked if the valuation could be raised another 28% next year. He said that was doubtful.

Engstad said the valuation increases are not as bad as it sounds. That does not mean property taxes are going to increase 28% on commercial and 12% for residential. The local levy of the school, city, county and township is going to have an impact on the increases. However, increased valuations do play a major role in taxes paid, commercial or residential.

Engstad said state law requires the assessor to value all property within their jurisdiction as its market value. The approximate selling price is for the taxable parcel based on market conditions as of January 2 of each year. Engstad said the county was lagging behind in valuations and recertifies have been undervalued for

several years.

People in the audience questioned how some on a limited budget and/or fixed income could afford these increases. Lyle Hoagland, a Mantorville business owner, said the 28% increase is a concern. He said the small business has taken a hit from less tourism in recent years. "How do we pass that on to a customer? We don't want to turn this town into a ghost town."

Homeowner Roger Nolte said his valuation went up 16%, just over \$25,000. He said that the house he lives in is over 75 years old. He has added a double garage and just questioned if that justifies doubling the price of the property.

Binch Schwartz is in the process of selling the Antique Mall to a group of local investors. One of the investors present, Paul Larson, said the agreed upon purchase price is several thousand dollars less than the assessed value would be with the 28% increase. "I am past president of the chamber and a small business owner in town too," said Larson. "There are a lot of small businesses that can't afford this kind of an increase."

Kent Harmsman had two parcels of bare land, non-buildable, that tripled in value. Engstad said he fit into a select category of having poor land that showed a significant increase. His valuation will be re-evaluated.

William Reding has lived in his Mantorville home almost 10 years. His 1965 property has gone up over four times the purchase price during that time. His valuation increased \$20,000, about a 15.5% increase. Gary Riehl, who showed a 13% increase in valuation, said he would be interested in taking his concerns to the county and asked when that board meeting would be. Caroline Hahn said she has lived here only three weeks and received a nice "greeting card" from the county in the form of her property tax statement. She said her valuation and increase was higher than any

other community around, including Byron, Kasson and Pine Island. Her valuation increased \$21,000.

Engstad did say the on site visits should average one every five years. He said there are 10,000 parcels in the county, excluding another 700 building permits for last year, which makes it impossible to do a visit every five years.

Many other people did comment at the meeting, all with pretty much the same message. There are people valuations of 15% or more and the average increase was \$15,000-\$20,000.

The council made a unanimous motion to have Engstad review all of the parcels in question. There were another 11 who called or submitted notices in writing and these properties will also be reviewed. The county assessor said he could submit findings to the council by the May 23 meeting.

People not satisfied with the decision made on their property at the local board of review can take their case to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization Tuesday, June 13 from 7-8 p.m. in the Dodge County Courthouse annex.

Eighth Avenue N.W. project to start May 9

The reconstruction of Eighth Avenue N.W. from Main to Fifth Street, Kasson, will begin with the milling of blacktop Monday, May 9. The underground work is scheduled to begin Monday, May 16. Rochester Sand & Gravel was the low bidder on the 8th Avenue Northwest improvement project that was originally expected to begin in June. The low bid of \$693,152.28 was \$127,000 below the feasibility report estimated cost. There were eight bidders on the project.



The cool April weather has not stopped farmers from getting into the fields and planting spring crops. Here John Petersman is shown planting south of Kasson on land owned by Sherman Stoffel. Dust was flying but that was not any indication of how much moisture there really is in the soil. This was only surface dust. Reports are there is plenty of moisture just below the surface. What farmers need now is warmer weather to keep up the ground temperatures.

SPORTS



Freshman is throwing out big numbers

At 6'2" and 235 pounds, Micah Hegeler hardly has the build of a typical freshman. In the discus and shot put he matches up very well with kids two and three years his elder.

The Kolmetz freshman has already broken the thirteen-year-old school record in the discus (135'10") and will no doubt better that before his high school career is done. His best in the shot, his least favorite of the two, is 42'9". The school record is 50' and doesn't expect that mark to stand for long either.

Micah can bench 245 pounds and squat 425. It's not totally about strength though. "You can see little guys really throw the discus," said Hegeler who insists that technique is a big part of success in the two events.

This year Micah has typically finished first in the discus and second in the shot. When asked why he thinks he does better in one over the other he responds, "I like throwing the discus better."

In a sport that is traditionally dominated by senior veterans, this K-M freshman is setting a new standard for success at a very young age. What Micah attributes much of his success to is lifting weights and working on the mechanics of throwing. There's a no telling how far he can go with three-and-a-half years of competing left.

Track is not even Micah's favorite sport, football is. He is going to be working hard to earn a spot on the varsity as a sophomore. That could be good news too for Coach Ivan Kroulik and the rest of the football team.

"Golf For A Cause"

Tournament at ZVRC May 21

The First Annual Golf For A Cause Golf Tournament for cancer research will be Saturday, May 21 at the Zumbro Valley Golf Course.

The tournament is a five-person best shot and the team entry fee is \$250. The 18-hole shotgun start tournament will begin at 1 p.m. and the entry fee includes dinner and prizes. Dinner only tickets can be purchased for \$20 each.

The first annual tournament is being held by the Broekie family because Robert "Bobby" Broekie of Kasson was diagnosed with esophageal cancer (cancer of the esophagus) last fall. He has since undergone surgery and radiation treatment and is back helping his son Jim in his law care service and doing what he enjoys most, playing golf.

Bring the family and support the cause for cancer research. Contact Deb O'Connor at 507-434-4546 or go to golf4acause@hotmail.com.

K-M Youth Wrestling Compete at State

The K-M youth wrestling team and individuals participated at NYWA State the weekend of April 1-3. The K-8 team had two losses and one win. The first round of wrestling was on Saturday afternoon and the kids defeated Deer River. The kids then ran into the eventual state champions Albert Lea and lost. The final round of team competition was Sunday afternoon and the kids wrestled Grand Meadow and lost.

Grand Meadow eventually placed 5th. The following wrestlers were on the team: Brady Berge, Brady Erdman, Marcus Cooper, Marcus Fischer, Ryan Erdman, Stacy Bauser, Tyler Decker, Corben Hansen, Garrett Garneau, Brock Berge, Dustin Allen, Jacob Moen, James Moen, Matthew Madery, Ethan Shea, Aaron Berge, Gabe Shea, Caleb Johnson and Cohan Lightburners.

The club also had a great performance by the individual wrestlers. Brady Berge and Chase O'Conner were State Champions. Corben Hansen and Garrett Garneau were State Runners-up. Brock Berge placed third. Eighth grader Andrew Fischer took fourth place. There were also a few more wrestlers that competed at the state tournament and they are as follows: Brady Erdman, Gabe Shea, Dustin Allen, Tyler Allen, Donovan Sullivan, Miles Brumman, Cameron Ruehlman. There was also one 1st grade wrestler that was missed in the last youth wrestling article. Cayden Johnson took 5th place at NYWA regionals.

The same weekend as the NYWA state tournament there was one individual wrestler that participated in the USA wrestling nationals in Cedar Falls, IA. Sam Stoll, a 3rd grader was a USA national champion.

Six K-M wrestlers in freestyle region

Six wrestlers from the K-M Lightning Club participated in the USA Freestyle Regional Tournament in Stewartville Saturday. Four of the five wrestlers qualified for the state Saturday at the Mayo Civic Auditorium.

Wrestling in the eight and under 60 pound division was Gabe Shea. Gabe earned a third place finish, qualifying for the state. Riley Knutson wrestled in 70 pounds in the 10 and under division. He also placed third and will participate in the state tournament.

Sam Stoll wrestled in the Novice Division and placed first. Donovan Sullivan was second in the School Boy Division and both qualified for the state tournament. Nate Nelson and Michael Heald also participated in the regional tournament.

Regional wrestlers were Donovan Sullivan and Sam Stoll (in back), Gabe Shea, coach Aaron Knutson, Michael Heald, Nate Nelson and Riley Knutson.



Girls strengthen hold on HVL division lead

The K-M girls golf team strengthened their hold on the HVL Gold Division by winning meets at Winona Cotter and Maple Valley of Stewartville last week. Senior Michelle Carlson was medalist at Cotter and senior Stacy Singfield was runner-up at Stewartville Thursday.

After three meets, all won by the Kolmetz, they have 17 points followed by Hayfield with 13, Stewartville 11, Lourdes 9, Byron 5 and Winona Cotter 2. A team is awarded six points for first, five for second and so on.

Michelle Carlson had her best nine hole round of the season in shooting a 41. Bridget O'Neill had a 43 and Stacy Singfield and Kelley Driscoll each shot 51. Coach Jeff Bernards said the objective was to get the fourth score down, closer to the top three series, and the team did that Monday.

K-M won the meet with 188 followed by Hayfield at 204, Stewartville 213, Lourdes 215, Byron 216 and Cotter 256. At Maple Valley of Stewartville K-M had 199 followed by Hayfield and Stewartville at 206, Lourdes 213, Byron 216 and Cotter did not have a complete team.

Stacy Singfield shot a 46 to finish as medalist runner-up. Third overall was Bridget O'Neill shooting a 47. Michelle Carlson added a 50 and sophomore Jenna Tipka had a 56.

The Kolmetz hosted Rochester JM last week and won by a stroke, 191-192. Stacy Singfield tied for medalist honors with a 43. Bridget O'Neill shot 58. Kelley Driscoll shot her best round of the season with a 49 and Michelle Carlson had the fourth score of 51.

The boys finished two HVL meets where they started the season, right in the middle. They were third in both events.

At Winona Cotter shot a 145, Cotter had 152. K-M 170, Hayfield 170, Stewartville 184 and Byron 192. In the overall standings Lourdes has 18 points in winning all of the first three meets, Cotter has 16, K-M 11, Hayfield 8, Stewartville 7 and Byron 4.

Senior Will Lebech led the Kolmetz with his best nine hole total of the season so far. He fired a 40 and was followed by Jared Pfeiffer and Aaron Garmen with 42's and a 46 by Jerd Ewert.

At Maple Valley senior Brent Carlson led the team with a 40. Will Lebech and Jared Ewert each had 42 and Jared Pfeiffer shot a 44.

The K-M boys were runner-up at Jewsville in the Dodge Golf Tournament at the Dodge County Club in Dodge Center. Jewsville shot 340, K-M had a 345 followed by United South Central 353, Trion 361, Stewartville 365, Hayfield 367, Byron 372 and Mabel Center 432.

Medalist honors went to Dan Sprengler of Jewsville who shot a 79 over 18 holes. K-M's Brent Carlson was fifth overall, shooting 41-44 for an 85. Jared Pfeiffer had an 86 and Aaron Garmen and Jordan Bailey each shot 87.

The HVL meet scheduled for Monday at Zumbro Valley was cancelled due to the weather. They are scheduled at Lourdes Thursday.

May/June 2005 Zumbro Park Programs

BEGINNING BIRDER - May 7 at 1:00pm
Let us help you get started with your new lifetime hobby! Bird watching is believed to be enjoyed by more people than any other outdoor pursuit. Join us as we get you off to a great start! (Ages and up)

SPRING FUN FEST - May 14 from 12:00 - 3:00 pm
Join the Friends of Oxbow for an afternoon of games, music, food and fun! Not to mention the long awaited groundbreaking for the new otter habitat! (All Ages)

FEED THE OTTERS - May 21 at 1:00 pm
The otters eat, you watch! Who will you root for, the otters or the minnows? This popular program promises to educate and entertain. (All Ages)

FEEDING BLACK BEAR - May 28 at 1:00 pm
Our resident black bear is awake and hungry once again! Join us as we share some natural history facts about black bears and tempt her with a wide variety of different foods. What will she eat first? Come to this program to find out! (All Ages)

FEED THE BISON - June 4 at 1:00 pm
Bring your cameras and curiosity while you accompany park staff over to the bison paddock for feeding time. This program highlights big critters with big appetites, a nice hike and lots of new facts to learn and share. (All Ages)

BIRDS OF PREY - June 11 at 1:00 pm
Come and learn more about the spectacular birds of prey that inhabit our area. We'll share facts about their natural history as well as provide you with tips on how to identify those birds in the field. (All Ages)

FEED THE CRITTERS - June 18 at 3:00 pm
This is one of our most popular programs. Join the critters for dinner—they eat, you watch. You'll remember the experience! (All Ages)

TREE IDENTIFICATION - June 25 at 10:00 am
Let us share some basic tree identification tips with you! This "how to" class is great for anyone interested in learning more about "trees and such." (Ages 10 and up)

In case of inclement weather, call 775-2451 for program information

SPORTS

K-M boys, girls in Tiger relays

Editor's note: The K-M boys and girls were in the Tiger Relays Thursday at Stewartville. We apologize for not being able to have complete results because we were unable to form all of the place finishes and individuals involved in each race.

The Tiger Relays are run on a different format compared to a typical track meet. All of the events are relays and even in the field events, such as the shot and discus, there is a team total to determine the winner. For example, Micah Hegerle (41'5"), Chadler Ruchmann (27'2") and Sam Olson (30'1-1/2") combined for 98'8-1/2" to place fourth in the team shot event.

The 3 x 110 relay team of Anthony Walker (16:08), Jacob Allen (19:56) and Matt Buzinski (19:59) combined for a second place. The threesome was also second in the 3 x 300 hurdles with a combined time of 2:25.42.

The co-ed 4 x 1600 team of Lucas Slaymaker (5:12:39), Taylor Armstrong (5:17:28), Laura Johnson (5:50:74) and Brittany Ungs (5:57:90) placed third with a total time of 21:43.08.

In the team triple jump K-M took third. Team members were Anthony Walker (40'4-3/4"), Jacob Allen (34'7") and Derek Vries (35'3-3/4") and they had a combined total of 110'3-1/2".

The girls 3 x 100 relay team of Megan Rasmussen (17:04), Danielle Hochen (18:51) and Jade Sincier (19:02) had a winning team total of 54:57. In the 300 relays the same team took first place. No time was available.

In the shot event the team of Beth O'Brien (21'10"), Jonas Kiroch (23'3-1/2") and Jacqueline Hoen (19'8") placed fifth.

The long jump team of Rasmussen (14'11"), Joanna Menchaca (13'9") and Beth O'Brien (12'9-1/2") placed second and Nicole Lampland, Alyssabeth Hester and Beth O'Brien were fourth.

3-0 week solidifies baseball team's hold on first

A pair of shutouts and a 6-3 win helped solidify the K-M baseball team's lead in the HVL Gold Division. A pair of Wilma Cotta losses to Hayfield did not break the cause either.

K-M pounded Lake City Monday night 11-0 and then took a doubleheader from Byron, 6-3 and 10-0, to improve to 5-1 in the HVL and 10-2 overall.

HVL Gold	
K-M	8-1-10-2
Cotta	5-3-5-3
Byron	3-0-5-4
Hayfield	5-3-7-3
Stewartville	4-4-4-4
Louises	3-5-4-5

At Lake City Matt Franke and Nick Thompson combined to three-hit the Tigers. Franke pitched the first three, giving up three hits and striking out five, and Thompson pitched two hitless innings, striking out five.

Friday against Byron Franke pitched a five inning no-hitter in a 10-0 win. Franke struck out one, walked seven and did not have his best stuff. Coach Brock Threlkeld said it was a good effort, in that it was ideal weather conditions, to throw nine shutouts without his best control. So far this season the K-M senior is 5-0 and has a 0.25 earned run average. He has given up only one earned run this season.

Franke's counterpart, Matt Mrazek, pitched the first game against Byron and was rewarded the win when the KolMets scored three times in the seventh to break a 3-3 tie. He

pitched six innings, struck out six and walked two. Mrazek also has an impressive earned run average at 1.25. When Mrazek is on the mound, Franke plays short and roles are reversed when Franke is pitching.

K-M 11 - Lake City 0

The KolMets picked up all the runs they needed in the first inning when they scored six times. Kellen Rindler led off with a walk, Mrazek doubled and Franke singled home a pair of runs. Eric Gruthe walked and ran for Rindler. In the RBI mound out. A double by Nick Thompson, error and single off the bat of Tyler Larson scored one, then Rindler, in his second at bat of the inning, doubled home the first two runs.

K-M did not score again until the fourth when they pushed five more runs across, which shortened the game up to five innings. An RBI double by Gruthe and single by Fish were the big hits of the inning.

Fish, Gruthe, Franke and Rindler each knocked in two runs and Nick Thompson and Tyler Larson were each two for three at the plate. Larson also had three RBIs.

K-M 6 - Byron 3

K-M took a 3-0 lead after three innings and Byron came back with one in the fourth and two more in the sixth to tie the game up.

The KolMets responded in

Girls record 5-0 shutout for first softball win



Senior Laura Schmidt dives safely into second base. She scored on a two-run triple by Nicole Christensen that gave the KolMets a 4-0 lead. Photo by Jerry Boyd.

The cold, wet spring weather continued to plague the K-M softball team. However, last Thursday the girls warmed up against Kenyon-Wanamingo and came away with a 5-0 shutout win, first of the season.

Sophomore Brittney Ackert went the distance and threw a two-hitter. She had hit support from Candace Miller, Emilie Lushinsky and Nicole Christensen who

the bat of Lushinsky.

K-M then traded outs to the Knights until the sixth inning when Solberg walked, stole second and scored on Lushinsky's second RBI hit of the game, a single.

Leading 2-0, K-M added some insurance runs with a walk to senior Laura Schmidt, single by junior Jewel Morrison and then a two-run triple by Christensen to make the score 4-0.

K-M then traded outs to the Knights until the sixth inning when Solberg walked, stole second and scored on Lushinsky's second RBI hit of the game, a single.

The game Tuesday was typical of the spring season. Winds were blowing 15-20 miles per hour and there were short periods of rain, sleet and even a little snow.

Pitches Brittany Ackert and Erica Jurens had a tough time warming up and even feeling their hands as they tried to get a grip on the ball while throwing.

Louises took full advantage of 12 walks, three hit batters and five hits to earn the 8-3 win. K-M managed six hits, including a double by junior Becky Saltz and a triple by junior Kendra Wobscall.

In the Lake City tournament Louises put together a 15-hit attack and ran away with the 9-2 win. In the second game the Lake City Tigers, the host team, took advantage of errors that scored a pair of unearned runs. The unearned runs proved to be the margin of victory. K-M had 13 hits in the two-game tournament.

This week the girls hosted Chastfield Monday and then Byron in an HVL game Thursday. They also traveled to Stewartville Friday. The Byron and Stewartville games are at 5 p.m.

Below, Nicole Christensen was busy running the bases in a 5-0 win over Kenyon-Wanamingo Thursday. She had a pair of hits, including this two-run triple in the seventh. Photo by Jerry Boyd.



Emilie Lushinsky rounds first base on her way to an RBI double in the first inning. The K-M senior had two hits and two RBIs in a 5-0 shutout win Thursday afternoon. Photo by Jerry Boyd.

each had a pair of hits.

Even though the weather was cool, near 50 degrees, it did not play a role in this game. Seniors Emilie Lushinsky and Nicole Christensen had extra base hits.

The KolMets started early with a lead-off double by senior Leah Solberg. She scored on an RBI double off

Christensen then scored the KolMets fifth run on an RBI single by junior Candace Miller.

Coach Duane Burton said he has a good feeling about the team coming into the second half of the season. "The girls are playing good defense. If we can get our bats to heat up, and if our



host Stewartville and Friday are at Blooming Prairie. The conference games are at 5 p.m. and the non-conference game starts at 4 p.m.



Coach Brock Threlkeld, pitcher Matt Franke and catcher Eric Gruthe have a conversation during a break in action of the second game of a doubleheader against Byron Friday. Franke did not have his best stuff, giving up seven walks, but he also did not allow a hit in the 10-0 shutout win. He has given up only one earned run this season and is 5-0.



Area women participate in hockey tournament

This group of area women took the fight against breast cancer to the ice April 22-24 when they played in the "Bick it to Cancer" hockey tournament in Blaine, MN. The WanneBees are made up mostly of hockey moms who decided they needed to get in on the action. Word of mouth added a few players, some who had some previous hockey experience and some who didn't. The women try to skate once a week, but with ice time at a premium during the hockey season and other demands on their time, they don't always get to play as much as they would like. When one of the women brought up the possibility of playing in a tournament, it was a unanimous Yes! let's do it.

The "Bees" are fortunate to have husbands, sons and friends who are willing to take them seriously and step in as coaches. Not only do they have good coaches, they have great fans. It was a great time with a great group of women and their families. The team was able to raise money for a good cause while doing what they enjoy - playing hockey.

Front row: Leslie Lincoln Keesling (1, to r.); Sheila Kiffman, Dianne Dodds, Denise Schilo, Nikki Schell, Julie Olson, Pat Frederich, Cathy Wobers, Lisa Glower and Tanya Westrom Standing (1, to r.); Missy Lushinsky, Deb King, Annette Snyder, Jackie Haying, Crystal Olson, Emilie Lushinsky, Julie Stevens, Pam Rasmussen and Erica Wolfelt Back row: Coaches Tyler King, Brock Schillo and Paul Wilgus. Submitted story by Crystal Olson & photo by Paul Lushinsky.



SCHOOL NEWS



This group of K-M Music Department students, band and choir, earned Superior ratings at the Section Solo and Ensemble Contest.



The K-M band and choir students pictured here received Excellent ratings at the section contest in Meadford.

K-M music students rated superior

The Kasson-Mantorville Music Department had another successful day at the Section Solo and Ensemble Contest at Meadford High School on Tuesday, April 26.

The vocal department received 3 excellent and 23 superior awards. Students from K-M performed in six vocal sites. Five of these sites an entry from Kasson-Mantorville was selected as the best performance of the day. These awards will be announced at the Spring Vocal Contest on May 19.

The following received an excellent award: Meghan Stromme and Kerry Peterson for their solos and Bryan Leininger, Tom Whalen, and Eric Grubke for their TBB trio.

The following soloists received a superior award: Calli Roca, Anna Sannes, Scott Stroh, Nick Thompson, Peter Christensen, Alicia Bartel, Brad Herr, Amanda Schroeder, Nicole Buks, Kaitlyn Borland, Hannah Sabie, Ross Hackman, Ashley Evenson, Nate Lipp, Tom Whalen, Megan Hemann, and Kristin Johnson.

Ensembles that earned a superior award were: Trio - Kristin Johnson, Ashley Evenson, and Kaitlyn Borland. Duet - Cayla Schroeder and Erica Jurens. Miscellaneous Vocal Ensemble - Alicia Bartel, Megan Fredericksen, Alicia Louks, and Emily Rud. Women's Ensemble - Breanna Auringer, Megan Hamann, Cayla Schroeder, Kaylie Sutter, Lyndsey Jorgensen, Bridget O'Neill, Michelle Willgen, Hannah Sabie, Amanda Schroeder, and Kerry Peterson. Men's Ensemble - Peter Christensen, Ross Hackman, Nathanial Nelson, Patrick Sullivan, Chandler Ruchman, Scott Stroh, Brandon Berg, Brent Carlson, Jon Durr, Matt Franke, Eric Grubke, Paul Johnson, Zach Kase, Bryan Leininger, Nick Thompson, and Tom Whalen. Chamber Singers - Jason Allen, Stacy Brumhik, Ashley Evenson, Kristin Johnson, Kaitlyn Borland, Erica Jurens, Alan Bailey, Brad Herr, Nate Lipp, Cody Naig, and Mike Scholer.

The instrumental department received a site award and 11 superior ratings out of its 26 entries. In one of the five instrumental sites, an entry from Kasson-Mantorville was selected as the best performance of the day. This award will be announced at the Spring Concert on May 12th.

These soloists received superior awards: Julie Muzd (flute), Kristin Johnson (flute), Ashley Evenson (flute), Anna Sannes (clarinet), Michi Hegele (saxophone), Whitney Sorenson (trumpet), Calli Roca (trombone), Sam Schwartz (tuba), Eric Johnson (mallets). Ensemble that earned a superior award were: Flute Duet: Kristin Johnson and Ashley Evenson; Clarinet Trio: Danielle Hoch, Nicole Lamplund and Kayley Gamm.

The following instrumental performances received excellent ratings: Soloists: Ashley Nelson (flute), Christy Tjaden (flute), Alicia Currie (clarinet), Zach Kase (trombone), Tjaden Quartet (Julie Muzd, Kaylie Sutter, Christy Tjaden, Ashley Nelson), Clarinet Duet (Alicia Currie, Cayla West), Flute Trio (Alicia Currie, Holland DeRaad, Tyler Hestick), Clarinet Quartet (Anna Sannes, Hannah Sabie, Kim Maffias, Jayne Kirby), Saxophone Ensemble (Mike Harlow, Michelle Willgen, Ross Hackman, Eric Gillett, Ben Bachli, Malinda Midway), Trumpet Duet (Megan Stromme, Amy Muzd), Trombone Trio (Zach Kase, Nate Lipp, Tom Whalen), Brass Quintet (Whitney Sorenson, Stacy Brumhik, Breanna Auringer, Calli Roca, Sam Schwartz), Jazz Combo (Michi Hegele, Dallas Johnson, Allen Klingensporn, Katie Howls, Eric Johnson, Allison Ruby), Jazz Ensemble.

DNR NEWS

DNR asks for reports of active bald eagle nests

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is asking for help in locating every known bald eagle nest in Minnesota this spring in anticipation of the pending removal of the bald eagle from the federal endangered species list.

Bald eagles are already returning to nesting sites from their wintering areas near open water in southern Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri. Anyone who sees an active bald eagle nest is asked to contact the DNR's Neogame Wildlife Program.

Bald eagles have experienced a dramatic recovery since they were listed as a federally endangered species in 1967. Baker said. In 1973, only 115 active bald eagle nests could be found in Minnesota. The DNR neogame wildlife program found 681 nesting pairs in the most recent statewide survey, completed in 2003. Telephone or written messages reporting sightings should include a detailed description of the location of the eagle nest (including the county, township and nearest landmark), whether or not eagles were seen at the nest, and a way to contact the person reporting the nest. Report eagle nests to:

St. Paul, (651) 296-9662, stacy.kirch@dnr.state.mn.us or Grand Rapids, (218) 327-4518, jenna.hendrickson@dnr.state.mn.us or Revere, (218) 833-8728, peter.perry@dnr.state.mn.us

Beauregard, (218) 755-2976, katie.bouillon@dnr.state.mn.us or Rochester, (507) 256-5676, joshua.bouillon@dnr.state.mn.us or New Ulm, (507) 359-0039, brenda.bouillon@dnr.state.mn.us

Host families are needed

This could be one of the most memorable years your family has ever had. International Student Exchange (ISE), a non-profit foreign exchange student organization, is currently seeking host families for this coming school year. The students, who are between the ages of 15 and 18, come from over 30 different countries, speak English, have full medical insurance and their own spending money for personal expenses.

All interested people in the area school districts are encouraged to apply. Single parent families, empty nesters and the more traditional two parent families all make excellent host families for students and can offer the student an opportunity to make their dream of spending an academic year in the USA, a dream come true.

The mission of International Student Exchange (ISE) is to encourage the development of mutual awareness, respect, concern and trust between people from different cultures. It is made possible by volunteer host families like yours!

For more information call our local ISE representative Ron Anderson at (507) 288-4728 or 1-866-234-3592. You have the chance to make a world of difference, one person at a time.

9,14,18,22,25



KOMET COMMENTS

By Michael J. Smith, Superintendent

Mission: To Educate
Vision: To prepare life-long learners and responsible citizens

EARLY DISMISSAL

There will be an early dismissal for students on Friday, May 13, 2005. The purpose of the early dismissal is to allow staff to meet to work on curriculum development.

MAY BOARD MEETING

The next regular school board will be held on Monday, May 16, 2005 at the Kasson-Mantorville High School starting at 7:00 a.m. The agenda will include:

1. Consider Revised New Board Policies
2. Tissue & Possible Termination of Probationary Teacher(s)
3. 2005-2006 Preliminary Revenue & Expenditure Budget
4. Personnel
5. Consider Approval of K-12 Social Studies Materials and Resources
6. Consider Approval Grade 8 Science Materials and Resources
7. Food Service Contract
8. 2004-2005 Audit Agreement
9. Phase 2 Tunnel Project
10. Other Items

KOMET WEB SITE

Information about the Kasson-Mantorville School events and pictures of the Community Education addition can be obtained via the KOMET Web site www.komet.k12.mn.us.

- UPCOMING**
- May 7 - High School Talent Show - 7:30 pm South Gym
 - May 8 - Mother's Day
 - May 9 - Special Board Meeting to Discuss District Goals, Aims and Measures
 - May 10 - Gr 5-6 Band Concert - North Gym
 - May 12 - Gr 8-12 Band Concert - North Gym
 - May 13 - Early Dismissal
 - May 14 - FRCD
 - May 16 - Regular School Board Meeting
 - May 20 - ZED ACTIVITY DAY
 - May 25 - Baccalaureate @ South Zumbro Lutheran Church
 - May 27 - Last Student Day of School
 - May 29 - Graduation - 2:00 pm North Gym
 - May 30 - Memorial Day



Kasson-Mantorville fifth grade top eight asthma poster winners are front row L-R: Paige Morris, Kayla Coffey, Brendon Raport, Jayce Weaver. Back row L-R: Taylor Sallers, Kayla Lenz, Kelly Fredrickson, Itzayana Fernandez.



Dealing with harassing telephone calls

It is estimated by telephone officials that over a million people each year receive telephone calls that could be categorized as being annoying, malicious, harassing, crank, and obscene or nuisance calls. Whichever kind it might be, these telephone calls serve no legitimate purpose and represent an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

These calls may include random calls by pranksters, calls at late-night hours, frequent pointless calls, calls where the caller says nothing, obscene calls, calls from former romantic interests, or calls where threats are made. These calls are intended to upset the person who receives them, either for revenge or to gratify the caller's personal urges. These calls can often be prevented or avoided by persons learning and using some simple techniques to decrease their potential for victimization.

HANG UP — If the caller doesn't speak, is obscene, or asks inappropriate questions... simply hang up the phone. When doing so, don't slam it down as this will only let the caller know you are upset and may encourage them to call again.

DON'T TALK TO STRANGERS — If the caller asks, "What is this?" or "What number have I called?" Don't tell them. Instead ask, "Who do you want?" or "What number are you calling?" Don't give any information to anyone you cannot positively recognize on the phone. If they are asking for someone who is not home (i.e. husband, boyfriend, children, etc.), simply tell them he/she is unavailable right now and ask for a name and number where he/she can call them right back. If you have children, instruct them not to talk to strangers on the phone. Teach your children to ask for the caller's name and number so someone can return the call.

KEEP COOL — Don't let the caller know you are angry as this may encourage them to continue to call and harass you. **REPORT ANNOYING OR MALICIOUS TELEPHONE CALLS** — Your local telephone company has a Call Trace option that you can use to help law enforcement identify the suspect caller.

1) Immediately after receiving the phone call, hang-up the call. Then lift the receiver and press *57 (or dial 1157 on a rotary phone).

2) Follow any recorded instructions. Document that date and time the harassing call was received.

3) Contact your local law enforcement and explain to them the date and time you did the Call Trace. The telephone company will not disclose any information to you regarding your Call Trace, only to law enforcement.

MESSAGE LOG ON ANSWERING MACHINE — DO NOT erase the tape, delete the message as it may be useful to the possible criminal investigation of the incident.

Your local telephone company also has some features that may help you with these call problems.

CALLER ID — gives you the ability to see the name and/or phone number of who is calling. You must contact your local telephone company to inquire about this service. **ANONYMOUS CALL REJECTION** — This service informs callers who have blocked their name and number that the party they are trying to reach does not accept blocked calls. This feature is generally available for Caller ID customers only. If you currently have Caller ID, you can lift your phone receiver and press *77 (rotary 1177) to activate this service. To cancel, press *67 (rotary 1167).

SELECTIVE CALL REJECTION — Press *60 (rotary 1160) to get instructions on how to turn this service on or off. Or, after receiving a harassing phone call, hang up and then press *60 (rotary 1160) to block that caller.

CHANGE YOUR PHONE NUMBER / UNLISTED NUMBER — Another alternative is to change your phone number to an unlisted number.

Some of these features may vary slightly with different phone companies so check with your local provider with any questions regarding features available.

REMEMBER... IF THE TELEPHONE CALLS ARE THREATENING... CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IMMEDIATELY.



Jim Blower of Kasson was moving this storage shed off the foundation at Veterans Memorial Park Friday morning to a rural resident once the spring road restrictions are lifted. The cement will be taken out and lot playground equipment extended to where the shed was located.

Dodge County Viral Statistics

The following information was recorded in the Recorder's Office of Dodge County for the time period of January 1 through February 28th, 2005.

BIRTHS

MELSON, ANTHONY	12/29/2004	NAVYLED	MELSON, AMY & NELSON, ANDREW
JENSEN, MATTHEW	12/20/05	CLAREMONT	RUSCH, NED & JENSEN, JUSTIN
JENSEN, BROD	12/20/05	CLAREMONT	BUSCH, NED & JENSEN, JUSTIN
PARKS, CAVALI	4/17/2004	NAVYLED	PARKS, JENELLE & PARKS, JARED
POWHER, BRAYDEN	10/20/05	NAVYLED	ROBINSON, BOBBI JO & POWHER, MATTHEW
OSANNE, JESSICA	10/20/05	NAVYLED	TEMPER, BRAYDEN & TEMPER, BENJAMIN
CHAMPRO, DALTON	10/20/05	NAVYLED	ZIMMHO, MARIE & CHAMPRO, TIMOTHY
LUGGER, DELBEN	10/20/05	NAVYLED	PRINCE, STACY & LUGGER, GREGORY
JACOBSON, AMY	11/12/05	NAVYLED	JACOBSON, JENNIFER & JACOBSON, DANIEL
PETERSON, KIM	11/20/05	NAVYLED	BLOOD, MELINDA & PETERSON, JONNA
SARFALD, BRD	11/20/05	NAVYLED	SARFALD, MOLLY & SARFALD, MARK
GREEN, TAMMER	11/20/05	NAVYLED	GREEN, LAURINE & GREEN, MICHAEL
DEPAAS, ALIJA	11/20/05	NAVYLED	DEPAAS, RENEE
ENGLISH, COURTNEY	11/20/05	NAVYLED	MEYERMAN, THIRSHA & ENGLISH, GARY
OTTER, KILDSIN	12/20/05	NAVYLED	GEYER, STAC & GEYER, ANDREW
BOND, KATH	12/12/05	NAVYLED	BOND, TANYA & BOND, CHET
JOHNSON, ALEXANDER	11/20/05	NAVYLED	MCKAY, JAMIE & JOHNSON, JESSE
MAYERS, MARIKA	12/12/05	NAVYLED	FAST, LEAH & MAYERS, JONAS
GARRISON, OWEN	12/20/05	NAVYLED	SARVESH, CASH & GARRISON, BRIAN
SOLIM, GAVIN	12/20/05	NAVYLED	BOLIN, KATHRYN & SOLIM, DEAN
BECKARD, GAVIN	12/20/05	NAVYLED	BECKARD, LYNN & BECKARD, RICHARD
WINTERBACH, CHARLES	12/20/05	NAVYLED	WINTERBACH, LAURA & WINTERBACH, RYAN
OLIVER, TALJA	12/20/05	NAVYLED	BOND, LAURA & BOND, MICHAEL
JONES, CHADEN	3/22/05	NAVYLED	KELLEY, ANDREA & KELLEY, TIMOTHY
OLSON, HANNAH	3/22/05	NAVYLED	JONES, NICOLE & JONES, BRIAN
POUSSPOULOS, MATTHEW	3/22/05	NAVYLED	OLSON, DONNA & OLSON, TIMOTHY
WILLIAMS, MICHA	3/22/05	NAVYLED	POUSSPOULOS, ALLI & POUSSPOULOS, JOSEPH
JARVIS, NICOLAS	3/22/05	NAVYLED	WILLIAMS, JESSICA & WILLIAMS, CHRISTOPHER
RODRIGUEZ, VICTOR	3/22/05	NAVYLED	JARVIS, BRONCO & JARVIS, STEVEN
WOOD, EVAN	3/22/05	NAVYLED	RODRIGUEZ, ELVIRA & RODRIGUEZ, MARTIN
GUZMAN, ANDY	3/22/05	NAVYLED	WOOD, CHRISTINE & WOOD, MICHAEL
BLAS, FERNANDEZ DANIEL	3/22/05	NAVYLED	GUZMAN, OFER & GUZMAN, ANDY
NOLLO, LLY	3/22/05	NAVYLED	IRVING, MARIA DEL CARMEN & IRVING, JOSE
TRID, CHRISTOPHER	3/22/05	NAVYLED	NOLLO, STACY & NOLLO, JONATHAN
BURKHOLDER, MELINDA	3/22/05	NAVYLED	TRID, DANIELLE & TRID, JOHN
		NAVYLED	BURKHOLDER, DANIEL & BURKHOLDER, DWIGHT

DISSOLUTIONS: 18

Berbara N. Beck	January 3, 2005
Kenneth C. Beck	
Gary Allen Boynton	January 7, 2005
Linda Jo Boynton	
Kelly Lee Sizel	January 7, 2005
Ann Marie Stahl	
Selinda Sheppard	January 7, 2005
Rafael Roca	
Christine Deborah Mckinnon	January 10, 2005
Martin Beth Nickman	
Arnell Grant Moss	January 13, 2005
Chela Moss Moss	
Bruce Myrre Russell	February 2, 2005
Lyndee Joanne Russell	
Dawn Marie Diller	February 2, 2005
Gerald Earl Jacobson	
Jason M. Anderson	February 3, 2005
Amy Lynn Anderson	
Una Joy Bore	February 8, 2005
David Paul Bore	
Jayne Beth Nordman	February 8, 2005
Mark Leonard Neffman	
Christine Marie Day	February 10, 2005
Justin Lyle Day	
Donna Marie Louie	February 10, 2005
Kevin Wayne Louie	
Jessica L. Puster	February 14, 2005
Mark S. Puster	
Debbie Marie Constantine Neelma	February 15, 2005
Scott Lee Constantine	
Julie Ann Pistor	February 18, 2005
James Palmer Holow	
Victoria Lynn Holow	February 18, 2005
Thomas Lee Bahr	
Marlyn J. Windhorst	February 24, 2005
Scott D. Windhorst	

MARRIAGES: 6

Kyle Eugene Kibbe	Hayfield, Minnesota	January 22, 2005
Lynn Beth Lawrence	Hayfield, Minnesota	
Wayne Michael Nelson	Kasson, Minnesota	January 22, 2005
Kelly Jo Vance	Kasson, Minnesota	
Justin Canell Munkhaysan	Clamond, Minnesota	January 23, 2005
Nayon Lynn Busch	Clamond, Minnesota	
Ryan James Smith	Kasson, Minnesota	January 23, 2005
Kathleen Anne Krockley	Kasson, Minnesota	
Maria Anthony Mowell	Kasson, Minnesota	February 14, 2005
Cara Lyn Cooper	Kasson, Minnesota	
Rodolfo Garcia	Kasson, Minnesota	February 14, 2005
Rebecca Mendez	Kasson, Minnesota	

DEATHS

TOBIAS MARSHALL	9/21/1940	BLOOMING PHARRIE	12/27/2004
BECKSTROM, BURNETTE	4/25/1921	NAVYLED	12/29/2004
BAKEL, MAUDE	5/29/1929	NAVYLED	1/11/2005
ROBERTSON, ELAINE	5/8/1932	NAVYLED	1/13/2005
UNKST, ALTA	5/25/1935	NAVYLED	1/16/2005
JENSEN, BROD	10/20/05	NAVYLED	1/19/2005
JENSEN, MATTHEW	10/20/05	NAVYLED	1/19/2005
HAUD, NEWEL	8/21/1911	NAVYLED	1/20/2005
HEAD, HOWARD	9/17/1918	NAVYLED	1/20/2005
BECKLEY, LOHARNE	11/21/1927	NAVYLED	1/20/2005
JEROLD, JOEL	8/29/1911	NAVYLED	1/20/2005
MULLEN, HELEN	3/25/1933	NAVYLED	1/20/2005
OWREN, ROBERT	11/14/1908	NAVYLED	2/20/2005
NEST, STANLEY	12/21/1926	CANBES, STOD TOWNSHIP	2/21/2005
SAVICKO, LOYD	5/29/1928	NAVYLED	2/23/2005
JOHNSON, HERBERT	12/14/1918	NAVYLED	2/29/2005
NEST, ALBERT	3/20/1926	NAVYLED	2/29/2005
THOMSON, ESTHER	4/29/1917	NAVYLED	3/22/2005
SCHNECK, CLAUDE	8/25/1923	NAVYLED	3/22/2005
STOSSE, RICHARD	12/25/1959	NAVYLED	3/22/2005

Dodge County Crime Prevention Unit

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE GPO: 527-625-6282
22 East 6th, Dept. 601 Non-Emergency Dispatch: 601-625-6282
Mankato, MN 56003 EMERGENCY: 911

Gary Thompson, Sheriff

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LOCAL NEWS

New business opens in former Kasson municipal building

Copy Cat Design, owned by Spencer Stevens of Kasson, opened recently in the former Kasson Municipal Building at 122 West Main.

Copy Cat offers a variety of services, according to Stevens. He is equipped to handle printing, copying, binding and laminating needs. He can make black and white copies starting at seven cents each, which Stevens said is competitive with any of the copy centers in Rochester.

Other services he offers include banner sign making and vehicle advertising lettering, printing on clothing, embroidery, personalized mouse pads and magnets.

The business is open 9-6 Monday-Friday and Saturday 10-4. His web site is copycat@kasson.com. He offers discounts to non-profit organizations and in-house party discounts (Paupered Chef, Partyline, etc.).



The Old Towne Cafe opened in Mantoville last Tuesday under the ownership of Sandy Mercer of Kasson. Scott Berg Construction was the general contractor on the project. The cafe has seating for 80 and will serve breakfast and lunch. Carryout is available for all items on the menu. Hours are 5 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Saturday. The Cafe will also be open Mother's Day 5-3. A grand opening is being planned for early this summer.

Poor job of placing values on commercial property costly

By Randy Carlson

Dodge County Assessor Wendell Engelstad said that doing a poor job of placing value on commercial property is a big reason valuations have been increased by 28% for the 2006 year. Engelstad

gave an overview of the valuation process before residential and business owners had appealed their cases before the board of review (Kasson City Council).

The night before Engelstad faced a similar crowd in the Mantoville City Council chambers. The numbers at the Kasson meeting were

considerably less but concerns over valuation increases were similar.

A state requirement is that valuations should be at 90 to 105 percent of value. To apply the 90% to Kasson property he said valuations would have had to increase 90%. That was just not realistic, said Engelstad. The figure of 28% was agreed on for the 700 commercial properties, owned by 400 different individuals.

Engelstad said property has been undervalued for years, especially commercial, so owners have been getting a deal. Engelstad said the increase is justified, based on past valuations. "If we don't deal with it locally the state will come in, make adjustments and there are no negotiating the rates."

Milt Kuball, owner of three different commercial properties, including the former Hardware Hank location downtown, which is now a Chinese restaurant, and the new Hardware Hank, had concerns over the 28% increase. The third parcel is on the north side of the new store where an old house was removed. The valuation increased 35%. The downtown property at 25 West Main increased 53% (with improvements) and the new store increased by 28.9%, a valuation increase of \$173,200. "The 28% seems to be on a little bit too much of a fast pace for a business," said Kuball. "Apparently the county has not done their work the last 15 years and now they want to catch up quick."

Kuball also questioned the fact the county used seven sold properties to determine values for the rest. He referred to them as the "sacred seven." Not one of the businesses was close to the type of business Hardware Hank is commercially. One of the properties sold was a small engine repair shop and another was a heavy shop. "It makes no sense to use these comparisons," said the Kasson business owner. "I can't raise my prices 28% and be competitive. This may hurt the relationships for people down the road."

Kuball said he did not question the values so much as the rate of increase. If it was 15% this year and 15% next year, that would be a different story, he added. "I agree with a lot of what you have to say," said the county assessor.

The council took each property owner case by case

and directed Engelstad to take another look at all three of Kuball's properties.

Another business owner, Lon Meyer of Meyer Chiropractic, asked if the increase was going to be another 28% next year. He had concerns if that was going to be the case. Engelstad said that would be very unlikely.

Lucille Baker said her valuation increased by \$2,500, about 7.3%. She indicated she has a very small, basic home with no improvements and is on a fixed income. The council was in agreement to have Engelstad look at that property too.

Homeowner Boyd Funk questioned the inconsistent increases the last few years. One year his property value increased \$19,000 and the next it did not go up at all. From 2002 to 2003 the value increased almost \$30,000 overall. The increase for 2005 was \$5,100, which is 2.6%. The council did not direct the county assessor to take any action because the percentage increase was within their guidelines. Rather than direct the council to make change, Boyd wanted to make a point about the inconsistent fluctuations in the valuations.

Another city resident, Wava Larson, asked the question, "If somebody else's property goes up does mine too?" Engelstad said that was basically what happens. Their property valuation increased to \$71,300 and she indicated she and her husband would be glad to sell for that. The valuation increased 4.4% and the council recommended Engelstad look at that property as well.

There were 110 property sales in the city last year and those sales are used to figure a median ratio. They throw out the high and low to come up with an average. Then the computer does the calculations. "Average" does not necessarily mean percentage increases are going to be the same for commercial and residential property.

When Engelstad returns with his findings on the property reviews, and a property owner is still not satisfied, they have the option of appealing the county board of review Tuesday, June 14, 2005 at the courthouse in Mantoville. At that time the concerns are presented to the board of commissioners, serving as the review board, with the county assessor also present.



Hey Mom, It's Shrek

Shrek celebrities were special guests for the Saturday grand opening at Kasson Dollar & Video. Kids could get their pictures taken with Donkey, Shrek and Puss N' Boots. Kasson Dollar & Video was offering grand opening deals, free cake, punch and special prizes.

Pictured here with the Shrek characters are Katherine Paulson, Amanda Nelson and Kelly Johnson.



LOCAL NEWS

Kasson Fire Dept. does controlled burn



As part of the April training session, the Kasson Fire Department was invited to burn several acres at the Osborn Park Prairie Restoration area in Byron. With the Byron Fire Department looking on, Kasson did a controlled burn which lasted about eight minutes total.

It was amazing to see how fast several acres could burn with flames reaching 15-20 feet high. This burn is normally conducted each year under supervision and direction of the Byron FD, DNR and Osborn Park.

Cigarettes are the main cause of grass fires. Campfires, burning leaves, light-

ing and farm equipment can contribute as well. Arson also contributes to grass fire each year.

Before a homeowner does any kind of controlled burn,

a burning permit is required. Fires can get out of control in minutes.

If anyone has burning they would like done they can contact Jim McAndrew,

Kasson Fire Department Training Officer, for more information and fees.

—photos submitted



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8th grade boys have successful season

The K-M 8th grade boys traveling basketball team had another successful season in 2005 finishing third or better in all tournaments played. This included third place finishes at the Albert Lea, Austin and Kasson tournaments and a second place at Belle Plaine. The Belle Plaine tournament included an exciting overtime win when the boys overcame a 12-point fourth quarter deficit.



Players included: Front: Drew Hackenmiller, Bryton Overton, Jacob Lacey, Travis Rasmussen and Trevor Larson. Back row: Corbin Brian Overton, Adam Bernard, Jacob Weis, Trevor Lammert, Steven DePaad, Drew Austin, Mitchell Curtis and coach Craig Hackenmiller. Players not available for the picture were Taylor Hodgman and Zach Wellman. Photo by Diana Overton.

—photo submitted

Family Gathering

Contact Linda Sharp, 2710 West 34th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99517. Tel. 207-245-3301 Email: Lsharp@alaska.net

Who: Eldem, Sorvik, Esse, Erickson, Ballstad, Svardal

When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday October 8, 2005.

and

Who: Pierstad and Svardal

When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday October 9, 2005.

Where: South Zumbro Lutheran Church, Kasson, MN.

Kasson is 20 m. west of Rochester; and 90 miles south of Minneapolis.

What: A day of family history, taking photos, sharing photos, stories, songs, memorabilia, genealogy charts, data and sources.

Needed: If you would like to help with the planning or with the event that day, please let Linda know. You need not volunteer to help in order to attend. Everyone is welcome and only a few helpers are needed. Ideas for helping include letting your own family line know by copying them with this flyer; selecting photos from the early 1900s and earlier to copy and share; sending a story about those who stayed in Norway, those who returned to Norway, the immigrants and the first generation to arrive in America, and how their lives were affected by the mass emigration out of Norway and their new homes in America. Host homes with one or two bedrooms for those from Norway or America who would like to stay in a family home. A copy machine and a computer.

Idea of things to bring:

Copies of birth, marriage, confirmation, baptism, death certificate are of interest. Photos from the early 1900s and prior, including farms, homes, land, people. A list of your own family line, including names, dates, and of those living, addresses, telephone, e-mails, etc. Land records.

Lodging: American, Kasson, MN Continental breakfast, pool, in-room coffees. Rates vary. 800-634-3444 or 507-634-3444.

Norwegian Events, Museums, Historical Centers, etc:

#1. Norsk Hordfest. The largest Scandinavian festival in America! 650 m. NW of Kasson. October 12 to 15, 2005. Minnet, ND. Hostfest Tel. 701-852-2364 www.hostfest.com email: hostfest@minnet.com info: Jan. 701-852-3161 Minnet housing - general information: 701-857-0500

#2. Mantorville, MN Dodge County Court House, 507-635-6280; and Dodge County Historical Society 507-635-6508 (10 minutes north of Kasson) dodge@kmtel.com <http://dodgehistoricaladdr.com>

#3. Norakadalen, Norwegian Heritage Center. www.norakadalen.org Coon Valley, WI. 608-452-3424. Westby, WI. 2 hours east of Kasson. Chamber of Commerce in Westby: 608-634-4011 www.westbywi.com westbyco@nra.net

#4. Spring Grove, MN Norwegian outdoor park, Han Oa and Han Per, Norwegian flags, buildings, etc. 1.5 hours SE of Rochester.

#5. Vesterheim, Norwegian Museum. 2.5 hours SE of Rochester. Largest immigrant museum in America. Decatur, Iowa. 563-382-6032 vesterheim@vesterheim.org



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Kasson Public Library will have the Scholastic Books Fair for two days on Friday, May 6th and Saturday, May 7th from 10:00-5:00 each day. Come to the library and look at all the new children's books!

This would be a great opportunity to purchase books for birthdays, holidays, or as occasion.

Library will be closed for Scholastic Books Fair. Kasson Public Library will be closed on Thursday, May 5th, 4:00-10:00 pm.

The Red Hat Society will be in the library with a program starting at 7:00 pm and drawings for the most successful and elegant.

Kasson Public Library Staff -

Ken Havers

Kasson Public Library will start their summer library hours starting Saturday, May 14. The library will be closed on Saturdays through Labor Day and will reopen the first Saturday after Labor Day.

NEW TITLES: NON-FICTION: *Just Like Jesus: Learning To Have A Heart Just Like His* by Max Lucado, *Men in Black: How the Supreme Court is Destroying America* by Mark Levin, *Three Cheers For Pooh* by Brian Selzer; *Betsy Cooper's New Choice Cook Book* FIC/TION: *Harry Potter* by Mary Kay Andrews, and *The Daughters-in-law* by Elise L. Henson. MYSTERY: *An Ambush Guest* by Ellen Hart, *VINDIC: Little Shop of Horrors* and *The Mysterious*.

DONATIONS: gifts of books, magazines, videos, CDs, DVD's, etc., Jackie Keller, Gil Kauf, Nanna Knudsen, Scott Larson, Sybil Gaudin, Colleen Goodman, Kelly Goodson, Julie Peterson, Scott Larson, Rachel Norzani, Catherine Zeller, Leora Ross, Betty Toss, Zeta Hawkins, Isaac Hanson and Marie Parson.

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